



## **The Karen Women's Organization Supports Villagers Protesting Burma Army Abuses**

**Date: July 22, 2020**

The Karen Women's Organization strongly supports the demands of villagers from Dweh Lo township, Mutraw district, who are calling for the withdrawal of four Burma Army camps near their villages. We stand firmly with the 1,524 individuals who are protesting against the Burma Army for killing innocent civilians. Last week, Naw Mu Naw was shot several times and then robbed of her gold jewelry. This is not the first time a villager was killed and robbed. This type of behavior from the Burma Army must stop.

The villagers are protesting against the following Burma Army battalions: LIB 338 and LIB 405, 408, 409, 410, under MOC 8 that is responsible for killing villagers by firing artillery into their areas. They are demanding that the four Burma Army camps of Waw Mu, Khoo Thwee Hta, Kay kow, Mae Way must immediately withdraw and leave their camps.

Villagers have compiled a list of those killed by the Burma Army since January 2020 including:

1. 2.1.2020, LIB 408 under MOC 8, killed a villager in Wah Tho Koh
2. 5.3.2020 LIB 338 killed a forest ranger on Mae Way road
3. 7.5.2020 LIB 410 under MOC 8 shelled artillery into Wah Tho Koh village
4. 9.5.2020 LIB 410 under MOC 8 killed a villager in Khu Seit
5. 2.6.2020 LIB 405 under MOC 8 killed a villager in Wah Tho Hta
6. 16.7.2020 LIB 409 under MOC 8 killed a villager in Poh Loh Hta

Villagers are very frustrated that they have been living under instant fear, insecurity, and unseen danger, which threatens their livelihoods. Despite the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, villagers are still waiting for peace. Their calls for the Burma Army to retreat from their villages shows that they are exhausted, frustrated and fearful for their futures. KWO believes that it is time for the Burma Army to show their sincerity and commitment to the ceasefire, by restoring peace and withdrawing from the four army camps. They must also act against those who commit crimes.

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